Hospital Corpsmen perform duties as assistants in the prevention and treatment of disease and injury and assist health care professionals in providing medical care to Naval personnel and their families. They may function as clinical or specialty technicians, medical administrative personnel and health care providers at medical treatment facilities. They also serve as battlefield corpsmen with the Marine Corps, rendering emergency medical treatment to include initial treatment in a combat environment.

Qualified Hospital Corpsmen may be assigned the responsibility of independent duty aboard ships and submarines; Fleet Marine Force, Special Forces and Seabee units, and at isolated duty stations where no medical officer is available.

This is a five-year program.

**HMDA - Dental Assistant**

Perform duties as a general dental assistant to include dental infection control, dental treatment room management, preventive dentistry, comprehensive dental assisting, and intraoral radiography.

**What They Do**

The duties performed by HMs include: assisting in prevention and treatment of disease and injuries; caring for sick and injured; administering immunization programs; rendering emergency medical treatment; instructing sailors and marines in first aid, self aid and personal hygiene procedures; transporting the sick and injured; conducting preliminary physical examinations; performing medical administrative, supply and accounting procedures; Maintaining treatment records and reports; supervising shipboard and field environmental sanitation and preventive medicine programs; supervising air, water, food and habitability standards.

**Qualified technicians:**

Perform clinical laboratory tests and operate sophisticated laboratory equipment; take and process X-rays and operate X-ray equipment; fill prescriptions, maintain pharmacy stock; serve as operating room technicians for general and specialized surgery; do preventive maintenance and repairs on biomedical equipment, including kidney dialysis machines, radiation monitors, hearing and vision testing machinery, heart and lung test apparatus, ultrasound, nuclear medicine and CT scan equipment.

**Credit Recommendations**

The American Council on Education recommends that semester hour credits be awarded in the vocational certificate or lower division bachelor’s / associates degree categories for completed in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), advanced first aid, nursing techniques, health and hygiene, medical terminology and clinical technologies while attending (A) and (C) schools.

**Qualifications and Interests**

A sincere interest in providing general health care is extremely important for this rating. People in the HM rating must relate well to other people and work well as a part of a team. It is important that candidates have good communication skills, writing and arithmetic ability, manual dexterity, dependability, trustworthiness, a good memory, resourcefulness and backgrounds or interests in the sciences. Other important qualifications are competence with tools, equipment/machines, physical stamina and the ability to do repetitive tasks without losing interest. Any illegal involvement with drugs may be disqualifying.

**Working Environment**

Hospital Corpsmen work in a variety of environments. Most HMs work indoors at hospitals or clinics. Others work aboard ships and submarines; with air squadrons, special operational environments (ie, SEAL, Recon Forces, Seabee units and Deep-sea Diving). Duties are service oriented, repetitive and require good judgment and mental alertness. HM’s may work alone or with supervision by other health professionals, depending on the assignment.

**Opportunities**

Current Opportunities for placement in the HM rating are good for qualified applicants. About 24,500 men and women serve as hospital corpsmen and 45% of them have received further training in one of 35 subspecialties leading to specialization in numerous health care technologies.

**Related Civilian Jobs**

- Nuclear Medical Technologist 078.361-026
- Medical Laboratory Asst. 078.381-010
- Respiratory Therapist 079.361-010
- Medical Assistant 079.367-010
- Emergency Medical Technician 079.374-010
- Surgical Technician 079.374-022
- Aerospace Physiological Technician 199.682-010
- Medical Records Clerk 245.362-010
- Psychiatric Aide 355.377-014
- Nurse Aide 355.674-014
- Optician, Dispensing 713.361-014
- Biomedical Equipment Technician 719.261-010
- Dental Ceramist 712.281-010
- Dental Assistant 079.371-010
- Dental Hygienists 078.361-010

Since Navy programs and courses are revised at times, the information contained on this rating card is subject to change. (Revised 01/08)